

Background

In 1998, HUD/OIG established a single person post-of-duty station in Rapid City, South Dakota, to conduct an intensive investigation of allegations involving the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Specifically, the establishment of the office was intended to minimize substantial anticipated travel costs associated with having staff located in the Denver Regional Office perform the investigation. The investigation is now complete, and the need for a separate post-of-duty station in Rapid City is therefore unnecessary. The closing of this post-of-duty station will provide the HUD/OIG with the opportunity to generate cost savings associated with closing this station.

Section 7(p) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(p)) provides that a plan for field reorganizations, which may involve the closing of any field or regional office of HUD may not take effect until 90 days after a cost-benefit analysis of the effect of the plan on the office in question is published in the **Federal Register**. The required cost-benefit analysis should include: (1) An estimate of cost savings anticipated; (2) an estimate of the additional cost which will result from the reorganization; (3) a discussion of the impact on the local economy; and (4) an estimate of the effect of the reorganization on the availability, accessibility, and quality of services provided for recipients of those services.

Legislative history pertaining to section 7(p) indicates that not all reorganizations are subject to the requirements of section 7(p). Congress stated that “[t]his amendment is not intended to [apply] to or restrict the internal operations or organization of the Department (such as the establishment of new or combination of existing organization units within a field office, the duty stationing of employees in various locations to provide on-site service, or the establishment or closing, based on workload, of small, informal offices such as valuations stations).” (See House Conference Report No. 95-1792, October 14, 1978 at 105-106.)

The one-person Rapid City, South Dakota post-of-duty station is a single purpose duty station, and it is being closed based on workload rather than on a reorganization of HUD/OIG field offices. Although notice of the closing of the post-of-duty station is not subject to the requirements of section 7(p), as supported by the legislative history, HUD/OIG nevertheless prepared a cost-benefit analysis for its own use in

determining whether to proceed with the closing. Through this notice, HUD/OIG advises the public of the closing of the Rapid City, South Dakota post-of-duty station and provides its cost-benefit analysis of the impact of the closure.

Impact of the Closure of the Rapid City, South Dakota Post-of-Duty Station

HUD/OIG considered the costs and benefits of closing the Rapid City, South Dakota post-of-duty station, and is publishing its cost-benefit analysis with this notice. In summary, HUD/OIG has determined that the closure will result in a cost savings, and, as a result of the size and limited function of the office, will cause no appreciable impact on the provision of authorized investigative services/activities in the area.

Cost Benefit Analysis

A. Cost Savings: The Rapid City, South Dakota post-of-duty station currently costs approximately \$2,200 per month for the space rental and associated overhead expenses to operate. Thus, closing the post-of-duty will result in annual savings of at least \$26,000. In addition, by closing the office, HUD/OIG will not be required to incur additional costs associated with current plans to install high-speed computer access lines to and on the premises.

B. Additional Costs: There are no offsetting expenses anticipated. Currently, no Special Agent is assigned to the Rapid City, South Dakota post-of-duty station, and, therefore, relocation costs are not associated with the closure.

C. Impact on Local Economy: No appreciable impact on the local economy is anticipated. Another Federal agency has already expressed an interest in taking over the office space that HUD/OIG leases in Rapid City, South Dakota.

D. Effect on Availability, Accessibility and Quality of Services Provided to Recipients of Those Services: The establishment of the Rapid City, South Dakota post-of-duty station was based largely on needs associated with HUD/OIG's investigation of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, which has since concluded. Further, as was the case prior to 1998, ordinary or less intensive fraud investigations in the Rapid City area can be effectively addressed by agents assigned to the Denver Regional Office.

For the reasons stated in this notice, HUD/OIG intends to proceed to close its Rapid City, South Dakota post-of-duty station at the expiration of the 90-day

period from the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: July 9, 2002.

Kenneth M. Donohue,

Inspector General.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Agency Information Collection; Proposed Revisions to a Currently Approved Information Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of renewal of a currently approved collection (OMB No. 1006-0001).

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. § 3501 et seq.), the Bureau of Reclamation (we, our or us) intends to submit a request for renewal (with revisions) of an existing approved information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Crop Acreage and Yields and Water Distribution (Water User Crop Census Report [Form 7-332], and Crop and Water Data [Form 7-2045]), OMB Control Number: 1006-001. We request your comments on the revised Crop Acreage and Yields and Water Distribution Forms and specific aspect of the information collection.

DATES: Your written comments must be received on or before September 16, 2002.

ADDRESSES: You may send written comments to the Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: D-5200, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225-0007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may request copies of the proposed revised forms by writing to the above address or by contacting Jeremy Simons at: (303) 445-2739.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The currently approved collection has been revised to reflect industry standards concerning units used to measure yields for certain crops (i.e., using pounds instead of bales for cotton lint and using pounds instead of tons for hops). Other changes include:

- In Section II-e on both forms, “Acres irrigated by”, we are adding the option to choose “Flood” along with the current options of “Sprinkler” and “Drip”.
- In Section II-g on both forms, “Acres not irrigated”, we are adjusting

the format of the box to allow checkmark indications for the options of "dry cropped", "fallow", and "idle", in addition to the number of acres.

- Within each subsection (i.e., Cereals, Forage, Vegetables, etc.) in Section III on both forms, "Crop Production", we are placing the items in alphabetical order.
- In Section III on both forms, we are moving "Cantaloupe", "Watermelon", and "Honey Ball, Honeydew, etc." from the "Vegetables" subsection to the "Fruits" subsection.
- In Section I on Form 7-332, "Irrigator Information", we are including a box that asks for the respondent's telephone number so any potential questions may be directed to that person.
- We are removing the footnotes to both forms and incorporating the footnotes within the body of the instructions that accompany each form.

There have been editorial changes to the current Form 7-332 and Form 7-2045, and to the instructions that accompany these forms. These changes have been made to increase the respondents' understanding of the forms and understanding of the instructions to the forms. The proposed changes will be included starting with the 2003 Crop Acreage and Yields and Water Distribution information collection.

Title: Crop Acreage and Yields and Water Distribution

Forms: Form 7-332, Water User Crop Census Report; and Form 7-2045, Crop and Water Data.

Abstract: The annual crop census is taken on all Bureau of Reclamation projects, along with collection of related statistics, primarily for use as a tool in administering, managing, and evaluating the Federal Reclamation program. The census is used to assist in the administration of repayment and water service contracts, which are used to repay the irrigators' obligation to the Federal Government. The census will provide data to facilitate the required 5-year review of ability-to-pay analysis, which is being incorporated into new repayment and water service contracts. The basis for these reviews is an audit by the Office of the Inspector General, Department of the Interior.

Data from the census are utilized to determine class 1 equivalency computations, i.e., determining the number of acres of class 2 and class 3 land that are required to be equivalent in productivity to class 1 land.

In recent years, the census has provided data which are used to administer international trade agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement. Data from the

census are also used by the Office of the Inspector General, General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Research Service to independently evaluate our program and to estimate the impacts of proposed legislation. These data are supplied to other Federal and State agencies to evaluate the program and provide data for research.

Description of Respondents: Irrigators and water user entities in the 17 Western States who receive irrigation water service from Bureau of Reclamation facilities. Also included are entities who receive other water services, such as municipal and industrial water through Bureau of Reclamation facilities.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Estimated completion time: Form 7-332, 15 minutes; Form 7-2045, 480 minutes.

Annual responses: Form 7-332, 25,000 responses; Form 7-2045, 225 responses.

Annual burden hours per form: Form 7-332, 6,250; Form 7-2045, 1,800.

Total Annual burden hours: 8,050.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Bureau of Reclamation, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of our burden estimate for the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including increased use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

We will summarize all comments received regarding this notice. We will publish that summary in the **Federal Register** when the information collection request is submitted to OMB for review and approval.

Department of the Interior practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals

identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Dated: July 1, 2002.

Elizabeth Cordova-Harrison,

Deputy Director, Office of Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

San Luis Reservoir Low Point Improvement Project, California

AGENCY: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (as amended), and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Reclamation and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) propose to prepare a joint EIR/EIS for the San Luis Reservoir Low Point Improvement Project (Project). The Project is being proposed by the District to maintain a healthy, clean water supply for the District and other contractors of Reclamation's San Felipe Division. The term "low point" refers to a range of pool elevations in San Luis Reservoir (in Merced County, California) within which seasonal algae blooms can create water quality problems directly affecting the treatability and reliability of deliveries to Central Valley Project (CVP) San Felipe Division contractors (the District is a member of CVP's San Felipe Division). An additional goal of the Project is to increase the operational flexibility of the San Luis Reservoir and to improve the reliability of deliveries to the District and other San Felipe Division contractors. The District will be the lead agency under CEQA.

DATES: Reclamation and the District will seek public input on alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the EIR/EIS through scoping meetings in August, 2002. Scoping is an early and open process designed to determine the issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIR/EIS. The schedule and locations of the scoping meetings are as follows:

- Scoping Meeting 1: August 26, 2002, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., San Jose, California.